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CONFIDENTIAL BEIJING 043195

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, APEC, US, CH
SUBJECT: CHINESE UP-BEAT APPRAISAL OF THE SEATTLE
MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENTS CLINTON AND JIANG

REF: A) BEIJING 42500; B) FBIS 0W3011203193;
C) FBIS HK 3011143193

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: AS CHINESE MFA OFFICIALS PRESENT AT THE SEATTLE MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENTS CLINTON AND JIANG RETURN TO BEIJING, THEY (AND THOSE THEY HAVE BRIEFED) HAVE BEEN PUTTING A POSITIVE SPIN ON THE MEETING. THEIR PERSONAL COMMENTS ARE SIMILAR TO CHINESE PRESS REPORTING ON THE CLINTON-JIANG MEETING SOURCED TO VICE PREMIER AND FOREIGN MINISTER QIAN QICHEN. END SUMMARY.

3. DURING A NOVEMBER 30 ENCOUNTER WITH THE DCM, MFA AMERICAN AND OCEANIAN DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR MA ZHENGANG, WHO WAS PRESENT AT THE MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENTS CLINTON AND JIANG, TERMED THE SESSION A "POSITIVE" AND "CONSTRUCTIVE" EVENT THAT HAD BEEN NEEDED TO "MAINTAIN MOMENTUM" IN U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS. MA SAID HE HOPED THE SECRETARY COULD EARLY COME TO CHINA, AND THAT WHILE HE COULD NOT SOLVE ALL DIFFERENCES AT MEETINGS SUCH AS THE PRESIDENTS' MEETING, IT WAS, NEVERTHELESS, IMPORTANT TO GET TOP LEVELS OF BOTH COUNTRIES ENGAGED WITH EACH OTHER.

4. VICE PREMIER ZHU RONGJI, IN A NOVEMBER 30 MEETING WITH WISCONSIN GOVERNOR THOMPSON (SEPT), COMMENTED THAT CHINESE AND INTERNATIONAL REACTION TO THE RECENT MEETING BETWEEN THE TWO PRESIDENTS IN SEATTLE HAD BEEN VERY POSITIVE. HE CONTINUED THAT THE U.S. AND CHINESE ECONOMIES WERE COMPLEMENTARY, AND THE SEATTLE MEETING HAD LAID A GOOD FOUNDATION FOR CLOSER ECONOMIC COOPERATION. HE ALSO CONCLUDED HIS MEETING WITH THE WISCONSIN GOVERNOR BY REITERATING THE IMPORTANCE OF

CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN CHINA AND THE UNITED STATES.

5. DURING A DECEMBER 1 LUNCH, MFA U.S. DIVISION CHIEF

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LIU XIAOMING, WHO ATTENDED THE CLINTON-JIANG MEETING, TOLD POLOFFS THAT JIANG HAD BEEN VERY PLEASED WITH HIS MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CLINTON. LIU SAID THAT JIANG WAS IMPRESSED WITH PRESIDENT CLINTON'S SINCERITY AND CLOSE ATTENTION TO HIS (JIANG'S) REMARKS. ALTHOUGH THE MEETING HAD NOT RESULTED IN ANY BREAKTHROUGHS, IT HAD CREATED A POSITIVE ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH OUTSTANDING ISSUES COULD BE ADDRESSED THROUGH FUTURE BILATERAL EXCHANGES. THE PRESIDENTS' MEETING HAD NOT BEEN INTENDED AS A NEGOTIATING SESSION, REASONED LIU, BUT, RATHER AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PRESIDENTS TO ESTABLISH RAPPORT, AND IT HAD BEEN A SUCCESS IN ACHIEVING THIS LATTER GOAL. ILLUSTRATING THE DEGREE OF RAPPORT ACHIEVED, LIU RECOUNTED THAT JIANG HAD OFFERED TO ACCOMPANY PRESIDENT CLINTON ON THE CHINESE-MADE SAXOPHONE GIVEN HIM BY JIANG, AND SAID THAT THE PRESIDENT WAS CLEARLY PLEASED WITH THE GIFT. LIU ALSO NOTED JIANG HAD INTERRUPTED HIS INTERPRETER AT ONE POINT TO MAKE IT CLEAR IN ENGLISH TO PRESIDENT CLINTON THAT HE (JIANG) WANTED AN OPPORTUNITY TO HOLD FUTURE "KNEE TO KNEE" TALKS IN CHINA.

6. DURING THE SAME LUNCH, FIRST SECRETARY REN GONGPING, WHO WAS NOT IN SEATTLE, TOLD US SEPARATELY THAT JIANG WAS IMPRESSED BY PRESIDENT CLINTON, CITING HIS YOUTH AND SKILL IN ARRANGING THE LEADERS' MEETING. MFA DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF NORTH AMERICAN AND OCEANIAN AFFAIRS LU SHUMIN, WHO WAS ALSO A STAY-AT-HOME,

OFFERED HIS THOUGHTS ON NEXT STEPS IN U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS. LU SAID CHINA HOPED FOR AN INCREASE IN BILATERAL VISITS, POSSIBLY INCLUDING VISITS BY THE SECRETARY AND THE PRESIDENT NEXT YEAR. NOTING THAT SEVERAL CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATIONS WERE SCHEDULED TO VISIT CHINA SOON, LU STATED THAT SUCH VISITS WERE IMPORTANT IN INCREASING AMERICAN UNDERSTANDING OF CONDITIONS IN CHINA.

7. AFTER AN INITIALLY CAUTIOUS STAB AT ANALYZING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CLINTON-JIANG ENCOUNTER (REF A), CHINESE MEDIA HAS RECENTLY PUT A MUCH MORE POSITIVE SPIN ON THE MEETING. XINHUA AND THE PRC-CONTROLLED HONG KONG CHINA NEWS SERVICE (ZHONGGUO XINWENSHE) ON NOVEMBER 30 BOTH FILED ARTICLES BASED ON A POSITIVE APPRAISAL OF THE SEATTLE PRESIDENTS' MEETING BY CHINESE VICE PREMIER AND FOREIGN MINISTER QIAN QICHEN (REFS B AND C). QIAN REPORTEDLY STATED THAT AN IMPROVEMENT IN SINO-U.S. RELATIONS CAN BE ANTICIPATED, WITH INCREASING RECIPROCAL VISITS, INCLUDING TOP-LEVEL

CONTACTS. THIS WEEK'S OUTLOOK ("LIAOWANG") MAGAZINE, ONE OF CHINA'S LEADING WEEKLIES, ALSO FEATURED AN UP-BEAT ARTICLE ON THE CLINTON-JIANG MEETING. ROY

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